

## MATTHEWS VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

July 13, 2016

### Minutes

Chairperson George Fossett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following committee members were present: George Fossett, Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Greg Smith, Nobie Thrasher, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, John Ramseur, Kathleen Wilsbach, and Ed Dement.

With 12 members present a quorum was declared.

Guests in attendance: State Representative Bill Brawley, House District 103, Mayor James P. Taylor, Commissioner John Urban, Rad Tate, Kress Query, Allan Burgess, Bill Dixon, Kelly Tain, Fred Baylor and Raymond Gaskins.

Representative Bill Brawley led the invocation.

The May minutes were approved as transmitted to all members. The June meeting was cancelled.

George Fossett introduced State Representative Bill Brawley. A veteran and two term Matthews commissioner, Representative Brawley praised the VAC Committee and its mission to serve veterans. He gave a history of George Washington, the state's focus on helping veterans transition into civilian life and gave members a state resource guide for veteran agencies. His local contact is Kelly Tain at 704-488-4998.

#### New Business:

1. George Fossett announced his resignation as Chairperson of the VAC due to illness. He asked for nominations from the floor to fill his position. Tom Cannon nominated Fisk Outwater, the nomination was seconded and approved by acclamation. George Fossett nominated Tom Cannon as Vice-chairman. The nomination was seconded and approved by acclamation.
2. Mayor Taylor commended George Fossett on bringing the idea of the Veteran Affairs Committee to him and on the fine job of organizing the committee.
3. Committee members Richard Johnson, Patrick Lowder and Carol Pryor will be removed from VAC membership due to non-attendance. The Town Clerk will be notified. James McGuire submitted his resignation due to relocation.
4. George Fossett introduced Fred Baylor and Raymond Gaskins, both veterans, and nominated them to fill vacancies of the VAC board. The nominations were seconded and both were accepted by acclamation.

Old Business:

1. Fisk Outwater reviewed the four sub-committees of the VAC. Subcommittees 2 and 3 do not have committee heads. Fisk will assign committee members to these positions. Ed Dement volunteered to lead Subcommittee 2, Ceremonies and Events. John Ramseur volunteered to be the chairman of Subcommittee 3, Vets are Assets, Vets in Gov't. The goal is to have the four committees up and running by the end of the year.
2. Janet Perkins reminded the VAC that Blind Veterans meet at the Levine Senior Center on the first Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Also, Ballentyne now has a veterans' coffee on the first Thursday of the month at the Broken Egg from 7:30 am to 9:00 am.
3. Agenda Item #4-a Breakout Sessions of the Sub-Committees: Cancelled due to the length of the meeting.

Announcements:

1. Stumptown Park – Bricks are available to veterans from the Rotary at \$50 each.
2. Greg Smith announced that there are merchants in Matthews who want to give veteran discounts. Identification of those merchants needs to be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by: Kathleen Wilsbach, Member